

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/734,237

Examiner

Man Phan

Applicant(s)

CHIANG, JOHN

Art Unit

2619

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed 11/06/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13-16 (Claims are renumbered as 1-15 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for allowance

1. This communication is in response to applicant's 10/06/2007 amendment in the application of Chiang for the "Method and apparatus for locking a table in a network switch" filed 12/15/2003. This application is a Continuation of the application 09/296,558 filed 04/22/1999 is now abandoned. The proposed amendment has been entered and made of record. Claim 12 has been canceled per Applicant's request, and claims 10, 13, 15 have been amended. The claims have been amended to better point out and more distinctly claim subject matter comprising the invention.

2. Claims 1-11, 13-16 are allowable as evident by applicant's amendment (Claims are renumbered as 1-15 respectively).

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a method of locking an address table within a network switch comprising the steps: allocating prescribed time slots for accessing the address table to various components of the network switch; determining, during a time slot allocated to a designated component, if any of the other components are currently transacting with the address table; locking out the designated component from accessing the address table, if one of the other components is currently transacting with the address table; and allowing the designated component access to the address table if none of the other components are currently transacting with the address table; an arrangement for controlling access to information stored within a

network switch comprising: an address table for storing entries that contain addresses of network stations connected to the network switch; a plurality of components configured to access said address table; and a scheduler for allocating prescribed time slots to said plurality of components for accessing said address table; each of said components being configured for determining if any other components are currently transacting with said address table during its allocated time slot, and accessing said address table if none of the other components are currently transacting with said address table; wherein a designated component of said plurality of components is configured to assert a lock signal indicating that said designated component is currently transacting with said address table, as specifically recited in the claims.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Man U. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3149. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

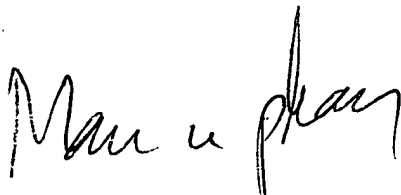
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 1-866-217-9197.

Mphan.

Jan. 04, 2008



MAN U. PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER